

CLAIMS

What is Claimed:

1. A computer method comprising the steps of:

i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a
5 compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;

ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a
compendium of at least one of department store space management
solutions, department store space information, and department store
space diagnostics;

10 and

iii) employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store
space-requirements and department store space-availability databases
for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating
department store space-requirements problem with department store
15 space-availability solution.

2. A method according to claim 1, comprising a step of updating the department
store space-requirements database.

3. A method according to claim 2, comprising a step of updating the department store space-requirements database so that it includes the results of employing a data mining technique.
4. A method according to claim 1, comprising a step of updating the department store space-availability database.
5. A method according to claim 4, comprising a step of updating the department store space-availability database so that it includes the effects of employing a data mining technique on the department store space-requirements database.
6. A method according to claim 2, comprising a step of refining a employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-requirements database.
7. A method according to claim 4, comprising a step of refining a employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-availability database.
8. A method according to claim 1, comprising a step of employing neural networks as the data mining technique.
9. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps

for providing an interactive department store space management database,
the method comprising the steps of:

- i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;
- 5 ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;

and

- 10 iii) employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating department store space-requirements problem with department store space-availability solution.

15 10. A computer comprising:

- i) means for inputting a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;
- 20 ii) means for inputting a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space

management solutions, department store space information, and
department store space diagnostics;

iii) means for employing a data mining technique for interrogating said
department store space-requirements and department store
space-availability databases;

and

iv) means for generating an output data stream, said output data stream
correlating department store space-requirements problem with
department store space-availability solution.